

2/17/72

Dear Mrs. Spencer,

I wish it were within my capability to help with such gross dishonesties and injustices as you report. One of the truly distressing things is their commonness in our country today.

They include so many cases of the incarcerated innocent, too.

However, it simply is beyond my physical capacity to cope with what I have undertaken, and that has been impoverishing. I have completed books I can't pay to get printed and a number started, besides the ongoing research.

I wish I knew someone to whom I could refer your letter of the 11th, but that also I do not know.

The best I can offer is good wishes.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

3825 South Monaco Pkwy
Denver, Colorado
February 11, 1972

Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Fredrick, Maryland

Dear Mr Weisberg,

Have you ever seen one lone citizen entangled with the powers that be in one of the lightly populated Western states? If you have you will have noted how closely bound together are the financial, the legal, and the political powers of those states. Add a long-time and practiced political boss and a helpless, uninformed widow whose fortune they covet and the situation becomes interesting and readable.

Idaho Code, the Federal Constitution and the State Constitution are blithely ignored. Who needs them, seems to be the attitude. Incidentally the laxity of the probate courts in Idaho has become such a scandal that no less a magazine than Reader's Digest is running an article on it soon. And the case mentioned is one of the milder ones as the history of such cases in that state go.

I speak of the largest bank in Idaho as executors. The powerful political boss as their attorney, attorney for the purchasing still-living-partner who is also his favorite client...and everyone's attorney except mine-who is paying his bill and whom he serves strictly on the record...and no where else. He spends all the considerable time he puts on the case in fighting me in court at my expense.

His methods of fighting are 1. Chaos 2. To quote directly from him, "We have no compunctions about doing anything to our advantage. You people do have. That is why we win and you lose."

Deceiving the court is their favorite pastime and they get by with it. At our recent hearing to dismiss the executors...the verdict is not in yet... the attorney for the executor got up and said the main charge against them was res judicata. And the judge ruled in his favor. Yet the last official word on the case was that the Supreme Court of Idaho had said the bank was guilty of negligence and the partners of my husband were guilty of fraud in this matter. And, strangely, we are now fighting the res judicata matter before the district court at this moment. The attorney I refer to had actually been at the deposition and was preparing for the coming up trial against me, as usual, on this res judicata matter. These are the men one lone widow is fighting.

They kept getting influence over the very lawyers I hired to protect myself from them...and I paid them both without getting service for me from either. Finally I found a lawyer of integrity. It isn't easy for him. To come up fresh and everything new, to the executors being intimately acquainted with all details for thirty years. They had been my husband's attorney for twenty years before his death and the case has now gone on more than eleven years.

I'd swear there was no law except that of Judge Bean whose word was the only law West of the Pecos...as you recall. In Idaho Falls the only law is the political boss's in the Snake River Valley,

Man's struggle to remain free. Man's struggle to own and control his property. Man's struggle to have the protection of the law.

To start with my husband had nothing to will in our community property state, having given away his share in secret *intro vivos* gifts. The executors and the court knew this but ignored it as not *suiting* their purposes. Minor detail to them. Even though Idaho Code holds them responsible for determining the true owner. Without due process...who ever heard of such nonsense? And so that whole case goes. I read the law book and wonder in which Utopia such rulings exist. Not in Idaho, though these are her Code.

I believe this is a timely issue. I think it is an idea that has reached its time and that the public will be receptive to its telling.

There are many big points before the law that the executors cover *up* and deceive the court on. But there are a hundred harrassments that I can not prove, but that I recongize. I was told that if I ~~didn't~~ ~~agree~~...and give my signature on a bill of sale...for the business to the favorite, the still-living-partner that the bank would do everything in their power to make me miserable. Bringing all their power and night against me. This is one of the few times they did not lie. They have. They have.

If you feel this rather blood-curdling story of what people can do wrongly in the name of the law and by the power of the law I should be happy to go through the records with you. The deeper you get the more grizzly and unbelievable it becomes. And it is all so smooth on the surface! Some stories have the correct feel and some do not but often the author ~~wants~~ to explore...or perhaps just look ~~at~~ a matter of personal interest or curiosity. I would welcome your interest in any capacity.

I can hardly go to the local newspaper. The political boss and his gang (there is a gang) own that. When I asked a brave and outspoken newscaster to come to the hearing the executors were clever enough and knowledable enough to prevent his coming. Yet not even my attorney knew he was coming. These men have long tenacles.

A detective who had served long in Idaho Falls while on his death bed said, "If I were to tell what I know about this town they would call out the national guard." I don't believe for a moment that they would. But I can believe that they ought to. These are the men a widow fights for justice.

Thank you for any interest you have have in this rather interesting case. It can happen here. This really isn't Russia or the middle ages.

Sincerely,

Mrs Louise Spencer